

roads. I say that destroys the rights and interests of the people interested in these roads. Under the old system, in the part of the county where I have been living, there was a supervisor for every road; but under the present system of electing a road supervisor for every election district, the consequence has been that he never attends to any of them. He farms out the roads to people who have no interest in them, and who do not live on the roads, and do not take care of them; whereas under the old system the men did live on the roads, and often rode along upon them. I know that we scarcely ever see a road supervisor in the part of Baltimore county where I live a part of the year. I have no doubt there has been a practical suffering in consequence of this change.

Cut the State up into districts, and in each let one of their own people be made road supervisor, and I believe that is the best system you can adopt. They will then have an interest in the roads. But if you elect one supervisor for an election district, it is a practical absurdity. If we are to provide for elections, there is now no mode by which they can be elected, except for election districts; and the mode of election for election districts is a denial to the people of their rights. Under the delusive idea of popular sovereignty, you are taking away from the people their rights. What is the use of telling me that I have the high privilege of going to the county seat, or the election precinct, and voting for a road supervisor for the election precinct? It is a mockery. If you mean to give me my right to elect a man, you must give it to me so that I can practically have some control over him, so that practically he will have some responsibility to me. Otherwise, it is practically no right, and no privilege at all.

So far as constables are concerned, I do not see that this section makes any provision at all for any constables in Baltimore city; and if it is adopted, so far as I can see, we shall have to go without constables, unless we can get them in some other way. What is the constable? He is nothing but the bailiff to execute certain duties. He does not represent the people. He is not like the justice of the peace even. I can see great reasons for electing a justice of the peace; but for the life of me, I cannot see why we should elect constables. And even under the amendment, the people will not have the right and cannot practically elect them. Who are the constables now in Baltimore city? Not the men who are elected. It is the universal practice for the men who are elected to sell out to somebody. Some local politician, in nine cases out of ten will get nominated, and sell out his commission for \$150. The people do not elect them at all. The men who serve never were elected by the people at all.

It is practically impossible for a ward

meeting to nominate a constable. A constable is a business, and a man must carry it on for years. Under the old provision, we had men appointed whose business it was. But elect a man for two years, and who is to become a constable for two years? It will sometimes happen that a clever man suddenly thrown out of employment will take a constable's berth for six months; but just as the people begin to be pleased with him, he gets something better to do, and resigns and quits the business. It seems to me that we might just as well have deputy sheriffs elected by the people, as constables. I propose to move presently to cut the constables from this article altogether, and get rid of them. I do not see what we have to do with them. Constables should be provided for under the judiciary department; they have nothing to do with this. The old constitution says nothing about constables here. It does in the judiciary article, but not in this. This section gives the county commissioners the right to appoint constables for the counties; but we have no county commissioners, and therefore are to have no constables in Baltimore city.

My theory is just this: This whole matter of the road supervisors should be left to the absolute discretion of the legislature. If they can arrange some system for the election of road supervisors in districts which they live in, and can take care of, I believe that is the best plan. I am in favor of allowing the constituency to elect their own officers wherever it is practically possible. But I believe it is impossible to adopt that system in the constitution, by which every neighborhood shall elect from their own members, a man to supervise their own roads. We can only provide for election by election districts. We cannot go to work in this constitution, and carve out small road precincts from the election districts. But we can leave the matter to the absolute discretion of the legislature, and they can provide some system by which they can be elected by districts where it is desirable; or they can provide for their appointment.

Mr. DANIEL. The reason why the committee put constables into this section, was that we were passing upon the powers and duties of the county commissioners, and we designed that the county commissioners should appoint constables as well as road supervisors; and that that was the proper place for it.

Mr. BELT. I want to make a suggestion to my friend from Baltimore city (Mr. Daniel,) who has just taken his seat. I think I should prefer to vote for the proposition to strike out constables entirely. The office of constable being a judicial one, it might be proper to fix the mode of appointment in the constitution, but to fix it in another way. I should suppose the best way would be to have the constables appointed by the judge of the